

# Office Action Summary

**Application No.**

10/768,409

**Applicant(s)**

FLORKEY ET AL.

**Examiner**

KHAI N. NGUYEN

**Art Unit**

2614

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --  
**Period for Reply**

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

**Status**

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 30 January 2004.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

**Disposition of Claims**

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-24 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-24 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

**Application Papers**

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 30 January 2004 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
- Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

**Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119**

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some \* c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
  2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.
  3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

\* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

**Attachment(s)**

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-8508)
- Paper No(s)/Mail Date \_\_\_\_\_

- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
- Paper No(s)/Mail Date \_\_\_\_\_
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application
- 6) ☐ Other: \_\_\_\_\_

## **DETAILED ACTION**

### ***Continued Examination Under 37 CFR 1.114***

1. A request for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, including the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e), was filed in this application after final rejection. Since this application is eligible for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, and the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e) has been timely paid, the finality of the previous Office action has been withdrawn pursuant to 37 CFR 1.114. Applicant's submission filed on December 06, 2007 has been entered.

### ***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103***

2. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

3. This application currently names joint inventors. In considering patentability of the claims under 35 U.S.C. 103(a), the examiner presumes that the subject matter of the various claims was commonly owned at the time any inventions covered therein were made absent any evidence to the contrary. Applicant is advised of the obligation under 37 CFR 1.56 to point out the inventor and invention dates of each claim that was not commonly owned at the time a later invention was made in order for the examiner to consider the applicability of 35 U.S.C. 103(c) and potential 35 U.S.C. 102(e), (f) or (g) prior art under 35 U.S.C. 103(a).

4. Claims 1-20, and 22-24 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Mazzarella et al. (U.S. Patent Number 6,819,921 hereinafter "Mazzarella") in view of Moss et al. (U.S. Patent Number 6,785,372 hereinafter "Moss").

Regarding claim 1, Mazzarella teaches an apparatus and method, comprising: a portability component that automatically updates one or more provisioning components (see Fig. 1) to port a directory number for a duration of time wherein a value for the duration of time comprises a date in the future, and wherein the directory number is not limited to wireless directory number (column 3, lines 5-9).

Although Mazzarella teaches a directory number portability for the wireless service providers, but there is no mention in the disclosure that the method is limited to wireless directory number only. On the contrary, for example, Mazzarella teaches the method of porting a directory number by using the local directory number (LDN) on the public switched telephone network (PSTN) (col. 3 lines 29-40).

Mazzarella teaches to port a directory number for a duration of time. However, Mazzarella does not specifically disclose the duration of time comprise a date in the future.

In the same field of endeavor, Moss teaches a method and apparatus to provide telephone services for a predetermined period of time (Moss - see abstract), and for a

date in the future (Moss - col. 6 lines 29-30). The advantage of Moss et al is the notification timer that can be implemented as a programmable timer (i.e., to support any service period length) in the service control point (SCP) (Moss – Fig. 3, 53 Notification Timer, col. 3 line 67, and col. 4 lines 2-4).

Therefore, it would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to incorporate the feature of programmable service period length (e.g. for a date in the future), as taught by Moss, into Mazzarella's method and system in order to enhance the customer service quality by providing the feature of porting a directory number for any service period length as desired.

Regarding claim 2, Mazzarella teaches upon accepted a request to port the directory number, the portability component receives one or more identifiers associated with one or more provisioning components and uses those identifier to notify the provisioning components of the request to port the directory number (Fig. 1, col. 3 lines 10-15).

Regarding claim 3, Mazzarella teaches the request to port the directory number comprises an association between the directory number and a location routing number, the portability component provides the association to a management component, and one or more network components cooperate to provide and/or terminate service for the directory number (Fig.1, col. 3 lines 33-36).

Regarding claim 4, Mazzarella teaches the portability component communicates with the ported-from provisioning component and ported-to provisioning component through employment of the identifiers to terminate service and provide service for the telephony device (Fig. 1, col. 3 lines 16-21).

Regarding claim 5, Mazzarella teaches the portability component cooperates with the provisioning component of the first service provider and the provisional component of the second service providers to port the directory number from the first service provider to the second service provider (Fig. 1, col. 3 lines 29-32).

Regarding claim 6, Mazzarella teaches the portability component cooperates with the ported-from provisioning component to terminate the access to the first set of services by the telephony device, and with the ported-to provisional component to provide access to the second set of services by the telephony device (Fig. 1, col. 3 lines 46-48).

Regarding claim 7, Mazzarella teaches upon expiration of the duration of time, the portability component in combination with one or more provisioning components port the directory back to the initial state (col. 4 lines 41-45). It is well known by those skilled in the art that service order cancellation will be automatically activated and the ported directory will be back to the initial state if there is no response from the subscriber.

Regarding claim 8, Mazzearella teaches the ported-to provisioning component initiates a request to the portability component to port the directory number; the portability component notifies the ported-from provisioning component of the request (col. 3 lines 46-50).

Regarding claim 9, Mazzearella teaches a subscriber database that comprises a subscriber entry for the directory number (col. 2 lines 42-45); the portability component and the ported-from provisioning component cooperate to change the subscriber entry in the subscriber database from the initial state to a ported state and from ported state to initial state (col. 4 lines 1-8).

Regarding claim 10, Mazzearella teaches upon the portability component and the ported-from provisioning component cooperate to change the subscriber entry in the subscriber database, the subscriber database and the switch component cooperate to restart the service at the network for the telephony device associated with the directory number (col. 4 lines 9-12).

Regarding claims 11-12, Mazzearella teaches the subscriber database and the switch component cooperate to notify one or more callers and a user of the telephony device associated with the directory number of a period of time remaining until the expiration of the time to port the directory number (col. 4 lines 31-37).

Regarding claims 13-15, Mazzarella teaches a timer component that determines an expiration of the duration of time to port the directory number based on the value for the duration of time (col. 3 lines 33-40); and upon receipt of the notification from the timer component, and then the provisioning components port the directory number back to initial state (col. 4 lines 31-37). Again, it is well known by those skilled in the art that service order cancellation will be automatically activated and the ported directory will be back to the initial state if there is no response from the subscriber.

Regarding claims 16-17, Mazzarella teaches the portability components employs the interfaces to receive the identifiers and a value of the duration of time (col. 4 lines 1-8); and upon an expiration of the duration of time, the portability component removes the association between the directory number and the location routing number (LRN), wherein a telephony device receives service associated with the directory number and/or location routing numbers (col. 4 lines 9-26).

Regarding claim 18, Mazzarella teaches a method, comprising the step of:  
automatically updates one or more provisioning components (see Fig. 1) to port a directory number for a duration of time, wherein a value for the duration of time comprises a date in the future, and wherein the directory number is not limited to wireless directory number (column 3, lines 5-9).

Although Mazzarella teaches a directory number portability for the wireless service providers, but there is no mention in the disclosure that the method is limited to wireless directory number only. On the contrary, for example, Mazzarella teaches the method of porting a directory number by using the local directory number (LDN) on the public switched telephone network (PSTN) (col. 3 lines 29-40).

Mazzarella teaches to port a directory number for a duration of time. However, Mazzarella does not specifically disclose the duration of time comprise a date in the future.

In the same field of endeavor, Moss teaches a method and apparatus to provide telephone services for a predetermined period of time (Moss - see abstract), and for a date in the future (Moss - col. 6 lines 29-30). The advantage of Moss et al is the notification timer that can be implemented as a programmable timer (i.e., to support any service period length) in the service control point (SCP) (Moss – Fig. 3, 53 Notification Timer, col. 3 line 67, and col. 4 lines 2-4).

Therefore, it would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to incorporate the feature of programmable service period length (e.g. for a date in the future), as taught by Moss, into Mozzarellas' method and system in order to enhance the customer service quality by providing the feature of porting a directory number for any service period length as desired.

Regarding claim 19, Mazzarella teaches a method, comprises the steps of:



receiving a request to port the directory number; request comprises one or more identifiers associated with one or more provisioning components (Fig. 1, col. 3 lines 10-15); a value for the duration of time (col. 3 lines 33-40); and an association between the directory number and a location routing number (LRN) (col. 4 lines 9-12);

providing the association to the provisioning components through employment of the identifiers upon receipt of the request (Fig. 1, col. 3 lines 16-21);

setting a ported-out flag associated with the directory number (col. 4 lines 16-18);

determining an expiration of the duration of time through employment of the value of time (col. 4 lines 31-32);

notifying the provisioning components through employment of the identifiers upon the expiration of time (col. 4 lines 1-8);

clearing the ported-out flag associated the directory number upon the expiration of time (col. 4 lines 16-19).

Regarding claim 20, Mazzarella teaches a method further comprising the steps of:

porting the directory number from first service provider to the second service provider (col. 3 lines 10-16);

terminating service for telephony device associated with the directory number of the first service provider if no response from the subscriber (col. 4 lines 33-37);

providing service for the telephony device by the second service provider (col. 4 lines 19-22);

receiving a notification of the expiration of time (col. 4 lines 31-37);  
porting the directory number from first service provider to the second service provider (col. 3 lines 10-16);  
terminating service for the telephony device associated with the directory number with the second service provider (col. 4 lines 16-18);  
providing a message indicating the expiration of time to a user of the telephony associated with the directory number (col. 4 lines 37-40).

Regarding claims 22-24, Mazzarella discloses everything claimed as applied in claim 1 in order to port a directory number for a duration of time. Thus, a permanent status is automatically supported by the inherent design of Mazzarella's apparatus and method.

However, Mazzarella does not specifically disclose the value for the duration of time comprises a period of time and/or the date in the future.

In the same field of endeavor, Moss teaches a method and apparatus to provide telephone services for a predetermined period of time (Moss - see abstract), for a date in the future (Moss - col. 6 lines 29-30), or any service period length (Moss - col. 6 lines 42-43).

Therefore, it would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to incorporate the feature of a period of time and the date in the future, as taught by Moss, into Mazzarella's method and system in order to

enhance the customer service quality by providing the feature of porting a directory number for any service period length as desired.

5. Claim 21 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Mazzarella in view of Petrunka (U.S. Patent Number 6,584,193), and further in view of Moss.

6. Regarding claim 21, Mazzarella discloses everything claimed as applied above (see claims 1 and 18) in order to port a directory number for the duration of time. Thus, a permanent status is automatically supported by the inherent design of Mazzarella's apparatus and method, and the method is not limited to wireless directory number (see claims 1 and 18 above).

However, Mazzarella does not specifically disclose the value for the duration of time comprises a date in the future, and also fail to specifically disclose the invention is readily implementable as one or more computer-readable signal-bearing media.

In the same field of endeavor, Petrunka discloses a method and system for using the existing Local Number Portability (LNP) infrastructure to intercept all calls to a subscriber and route them to a network platform. LNP is a telephony service that allows subscribers to retain their directory number when they change service providers (Petrunka - col. 3 lines 38-45). The advantage of Petrunka's invention is an article (computer program product) with computer program code in combination with hardware implements the method or process steps described, and this computer code is stored

on storage media (diskette, hard disk, CD-Rom, etc. – computer-readable signal-bearing media, Petrunka - col. 5 lines 27-40). Additionally, the computer program code can be transferred to the appropriate hardware over some type of data network (Petrunka – col. 5 lines 41-43).

In addition, and in the same field of endeavor, Moss teaches a method and apparatus to provide telephone services for a predetermined period of time (Moss - see abstract), for a date in the future (Moss - col. 6 lines 29-30). The advantage of Moss et al is the notification timer that can be implemented as a programmable timer (i.e., to support any service period length) in the service control point (SCP) (Moss – Fig. 3 – 53 Notification Timer – col. 3 line 67, and col. 4 lines 2-4).

Therefore, it would have been obvious to person of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to provide Mazzarella with an article, comprising: one or more computer-readable signal-bearing media to implement the method or process steps for automatically updating the provisioning components to port a directory number for a duration of time comprises a date in the future, and to incorporate the feature of programmable service period length, as taught by Moss, into Mazzarella's method and system in order to enhance the customer service quality by providing the feature of porting a directory number for any service period length as desired.

***Response to Arguments***

7. Applicant's arguments with respect to claims 1-21 have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection.

***Conclusion***

8. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

Halsell (U.S. PAT 7,203,496) teaches a system and method to reduce the number portability queries.

Agarwal et al. (U.S. PAT 6,138,023) teach a method for porting a directory number among several service providers.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to KHAI N. NGUYEN whose telephone number is (571)270-3141. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday - Thursday 6:30AM - 5:00PM.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Ahmad F. Matar can be reached on (571) 272-7488. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Art Unit: 2614

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/K. N. N./  
Examiner, Art Unit 2614

03/01/2008